

LAVERN NORRIS GAYNOR

HON. FRANCIS ROONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Lavern Norris Gaynor a Happy 95th Birthday and to honor her for a lifetime of community service.

Mrs. Gaynor has dedicated her life to improving the well-being of her fellow citizens. The daughter of prominent Naples philanthropist Lester Norris, she learned the value of giving back in her youth and has carried on her family legacy.

Mrs. Gaynor has impacted the entire Naples community with her work, but she most cherishes the work she does for children in promoting early learning. She has been recognized as the Naples Daily News Citizen of the Year, Outstanding Philanthropist in 2015, and has twice been named the YMCA's Pre-eminent Pioneer, yet those closest to her say Mrs. Gaynor is humble and unassuming. Her work will impact our community for generations to come.

I thank Lavern for her service to the Naples community and wish her a Happy Birthday.

HONORING JOSH WEBB**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Josh Webb, for his work in my office and his service to our state.

Josh has been on our team from the very beginning and has worked in a variety of capacities in our office, both in our Indiana and Washington, D.C. offices. He started as a field representative over six years ago, has been promoted five times, and currently serves as my District Director. In that role, he has organized hundreds of events, managed and developed our Indiana outreach strategy, handled our constituent casework services program, and has become one of my most trusted advisors.

On a personal note, Josh and I share a love of the life lessons of sports and a commitment to putting family first in our life. Josh has been my advisor, but more importantly, I consider Josh my friend. I appreciate his patience and consistent good humor as we traveled together throughout the 6th District.

I wish Josh continued success in all that God has planned for him and his family. I have no doubt Josh's biggest impact on our state and nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Josh on in those efforts.

H.R. 390, IRAQ AND SYRIA GENOCIDE RELIEF AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2018

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the passage of the Senate amendment

to H.R. 390, the Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017 in the House on November 27, 2018 by voice vote. The legislation has been presented to the President for his signature and I urge him to quickly sign the bill into law.

H.R. 390 is the culmination of years of work in Congress to help ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria who suffered horrific oppression at the hands of ISIS. The legislation will better channel humanitarian, stabilization, and recovery aid to genocide survivors through organizations currently working on the ground to help displaced populations return to their homes and rebuild their communities. Iraq is home to some of the oldest Christian communities in the world, yet less than 200,000 Christians remain in Iraq, down from 1.4 million in 2002.

In March of 2016, Congress took historic action when it declared that the brutal and systemic persecution of Christians, Yazidis, and other ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria by ISIS constituted genocide, one of only three times in history that Congress has made such a declaration.

Despite the powerful message Congress sent when it declared these atrocities as genocide, and appropriated hundreds of millions of dollars in assistance for these communities, U.S. aid has not reached these populations due to longstanding policies and practices of the federal government that prevent faith-based groups and other organizations from distributing foreign aid. Many of these faith-based groups are the only organizations working directly with survivors on the ground and have the expertise and knowledge of the region, its history, and culture to deliver this aid in the most effective way possible. Outdated policies in the Executive Branch should not stand in the way of the U.S. helping these suffering communities.

H.R. 390 supports entities conducting investigations into the perpetrators of these crimes to ensure they are held accountable. It is critical that evidence be collected and preserved so it can be used in court. It is also critical that our government works with foreign governments to identify and apprehend suspected perpetrators. Finally, the bill requires the U.S. government to identify and determine warning signs associated with genocide and crimes against humanity to help policymakers better respond to future campaigns against at-risk populations.

As the daughter of parents who fled religious persecution in the Middle East, I'm proud to have helped carry H.R. 390 through the Congress with the bill's sponsor in this effort to help the tens of thousands of survivors of genocide in Iraq and Syria, Congressman Chris Smith. He's been a tireless advocate on behalf of these persecuted communities and I applaud him for the work he has done to get this bill through Congress and to the President's desk.

**IN APPRECIATION OF THE
SERVICE OF JESSICA KELCH****HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to my Assistant

Staff Director, Jessica Kelch, for her six years of service on the staff of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Jessica has played an instrumental role in helping lead the Committee's extraordinary team of professional staff, managing and shepherding a variety of important, bipartisan bills through the legislative process to become law. Thanks to her impressive leadership, sharp instincts, and persistence, the Committee has enacted nearly two dozen legislative initiatives in this Congress alone, including bills to establish a new development finance corporation, combat food insecurity, and promote the role of women in peace negotiations and political processes. These have improved the lives of many worldwide.

Time and again, Jessica has proven her ability to build consensus and craft solutions to address a diverse array of difficult issues. I am particularly grateful for her candor, humor, and professionalism, but most importantly, for her dedication to serving her country, which I know she will continue to do with distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from the chamber on Thursday, November 29, 2018. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on roll call vote No. 423. I would have voted "yea" on roll call vote No. 424.

HONORING MOLLY GILLASPIE**HON. LUKE MESSER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a longtime member of my staff, Molly Gillaspie, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

Molly served as my Communications Director for more than a year in my Washington, D.C. office and continued working in Indiana as part of our team throughout the past year. Molly was responsible for all my official communications and media relations, which included writing press releases, speeches, opinion editorials and more. Molly is an outstanding member of our staff who always came to work with a smile on her face. I am truly grateful for everything she has done for our team.

On a personal note, I admire Molly's commitment to her family. Molly works very hard and delivers great results. But, you always have the sense that Molly's priorities are in the right order.

I want to thank Molly for her friendship and dedication to our work. I wish her and her husband, Adam, continued success in all that God has planned for their family. I have no doubt Molly's biggest impact on our state and nation are yet to come. I look forward to cheering Molly on in those efforts.